

From: [Moses, Althea](#)
To: [Sanders, LaTonya](#); [Houston, Pamela](#)
Subject: Region 6 powerpoint regarding EJ integration into emergency response
Date: Friday, September 8, 2017 9:31:57 AM
Attachments: [Enhancing EJ in Emergency Response.pdf](#)

Sorry – the first email is information from OEJ.

This information was prepared by Region 6!

Take care,

Althea M. Moses

U.S. EPA Region 7

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219

ph: 913-551-7649

fax: 913-551-9649

e-mail: moses.althea@epa.gov




ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE



VISION

Ensuring environmental justice concerns of impacted communities are addressed during responses

OUR GOAL: Promoting more effective inclusion of environmental justice considerations into EPA's emergency management processes



Environmental Justice and Emergency Response

- **2005:** Hurricanes Katrina (Aug 29), Rita (Sep 24), and Wilma (Oct 24) hit the Gulf Region
- **2006:** NEJAC recommendations for Future Disaster Preparedness and Response called for EPA to consider revising disaster management procedures, including:
 - *Incorporate an environmental justice function and staffing support in the Incident Command System structure*
 - *Develop public participation guidelines for disaster response situations, and promote their adoption and use by relevant emergency response organizations in both the public and private sectors*
- **2010:** Deepwater Horizon oil spill – first time EPA staffed formal liaison role for environmental justice
- **2012:** Superstorm Sandy – second time EJ supported liaison efforts
- **2016:** Flint Water Response – engaged EJ team but to lesser degree

Lessons Learned/Best Practices

- Incorporate an environmental justice function and staffing support within the response structure, supported by a cadre of trained EJ Response Facilitators working:
 - *On-site as part of liaison support*
 - *Off-site assisting with information, facilitating, etc.*
- Engage, where appropriate, the EJ team during pre-response assessment, to better plan for identifying potential environmental justice concerns/issues or vulnerable populations
- Establish an EJ Desk within regional/Headquarters Emergency Operations Centers
 - *Staffed by regional or HQ EJ Response Facilitators*
- Expand awareness and use of environmental justice and various tools and resources during responses:
 - *EJScreen to get a quick snapshot of impacted community*
 - identify vulnerable populations to establish baselines and outreach strategies during emergency situations
- Maintain list of environmental justice contacts, from all stakeholder groups, which can be accessed quickly in the event of future disasters

What we're working on

- Collaborating with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
 - *Working to add EJ Response Facilitator certification to Field Readiness profile, as well as offer "Environmental Justice" among the list of skills*
 - *Identifying EJ awareness needs/gaps for responders*
 - Discussed with Oil Program Managers during their recent annual meeting
 - Discussing with Remedial Project Managers during September call
 - *Looking at how to modify EJScreen training for responders*
 - *Exploring ways to better integrate EJ best practices into LNO and PIO training*
- Gaining a better understanding of existing regional mechanisms for engagement during responses *[just starting]*

DISCUSS

- ❖ Who from your region or program office wants/should serve in the Cadre?
- ❖ How can a network of EJ Response Facilitators fit in with existing regional mechanisms for engagement (i.e., COURT, etc.)?